

Subject: Councilmember Cedillo's E-Newsletter 1.10.14

From: "Gilbert Cedillo" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>

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To: "mistyli@aol.com" <mistyli@aol.com>



GREETING FROM COUNCILMEMBER GIL CEDILLO

Friends,

This week we appointed a dear friend of CD1 to the Cultural Affairs Commission, Sonia Molina. We heard from the 2020 Commission on the state of LA's future, and President Obama designated neighborhoods in CD1 as 'Promise Zones.' The City Attorney filed a lawsuit against an oil refinery in CD1, while LAPD apprehended one of the two suspected robbers in the Highland Park 7-Eleven case.

We get to know Team Cedillo's Sergio Infanzon and we say goodbye to three dear residents of the First Council District.



Gilbert A. Cedillo
Councilmember, District 1

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Appointment of Dr. Sonia Molina



(Photo Credit: Fredy Ceja)

On Tuesday the Los Angeles City Council approved the appointment of Dr. Sonia Molina to the Cultural Affairs Commission. Dr. Molina serves as President of Molina Edodontics, a dental office specializing in internal oral surgeries. She also serves as President of Nassillon Development Inc., a company specializing in real estate development in Southern California. Additionally, she is a well-respected clinical lecturer in the dental community as well as an active community leader.

Dr. Molina's been involved with various community organizations. Most notably, she was a founding member of The Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF).

Congratulations Dr. Molina.

Los Angeles 2020 Commission Report



(Photo Credit: Fredy Ceja)

On Friday the Los Angeles 2020 Commission shared the initial report and findings entitled "*A Time for Truth*."

Early in 2013 Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson asked Mickey Kantor to establish an independent and private commission to study and report on fiscal stability and growth in Los Angeles. Kantor invited twelve leaders, representing a broad diversity and a wealth of experience in the Los Angeles community, to serve.

"*A Time for Truth*" report is the first of two the commission will produce. This document is descriptive of the current situation involving fiscal and economic issues facing the city. The second report will cover commission recommendations and possibly alternative ideas for addressing the challenges facing Los Angeles, which will be produced in ninety days.

Click [here](#) for "A Time for Truth" report.

FIELD UPDATE

City Attorney Mike Feuer Files Suit Against Allenco Energy



(Photo Credit: LA Times)

City Attorney Mike Feuer filed suit against Allenco Energy Inc. on Tuesday, alleging violations of environmental protection laws and regulations at Allenco's oil field in University Park. The suit seeks a permanent injunction requiring Allenco to comply fully with all relevant laws and regulations. The complaint states that although Allenco temporarily has chosen to suspend operations at its oil facility, the health and safety of the community can effectively be ensured only by preventing Allenco from re-opening until it has complied fully with applicable law and no longer poses an imminent threat to public health.

The legal complaint asserts that among the violations of the statutes and rules designed to ensure the safety of its neighbors and first responders committed by Allenco, it has failed to maintain mandated fire suppression systems, failed to comply with water quality control requirements, failed to provide any information regarding the location and type of stored hazardous materials, failed to file hazardous materials response plans, and much more.

The Allenco oil field is located in a primarily low-income residential neighborhood in CD1, which is close to day care centers, elementary, middle and high schools, including a school for the developmentally disabled and Mt. St. Mary's College.

Councilmember Cedillo helped build the case against Allenco and applauds the City attorney's relentless efforts to seek environmental justice in CD1.

LAPD Captures 7-Eleven Robber



(Photo Credit: LAPD)

LAPD has captured one of two men believed to be involved in the Highland Park 7-Eleven gun robbery that ended in the death of Gonzalo Garcia. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to call Northeast Homicide Detectives Zesati or Aguilar at (323) 344-5744.

Thank you LAPD for your hard work.

To give to the Gonzalo Garcia memorial fund, please click [here](#).

CHASE Opens on Wilshire



(Photo Credit: Miguel Martinez)

On Tuesday, Team Cedillo's Ana Gomez helped welcome Chase to the Wilshire and Bixel building in CD1. This is one of sixty new branches that will open in Southern California.

Welcome to the neighborhood!

2/5 Freeway Connector Re-Opens



(Photo Credit: Fredy Ceja)

On Friday Councilmember Cedillo joined Caltrans to re-open the Glendale Freeway (SR-2) and Golden State Freeway (I-5) connector that was badly damaged six months ago by a tanker fire. The intense heat from the tanker fire caused extensive damage to the pavements, walls, support structures, drainage, and lighting of the northbound 2 and northbound 5 connector tunnel.

Looking at the tunnel today, one would not find a trace of this incident. The tunnel has been remodeled with new paint, lights and street markings. When our agencies work together, diligently, anything is possible.

NEWS UPDATE

CD1 Identified as Promise Zone



(Photo Credit: Kris Ortega)

We received big news yesterday that President Obama had named certain communities in Los Angeles as 'Promise Zones.' Of those communities included were CD1's Pico Union, Westlake and Koreatown.

Promise Zones is a key initiative in President Obama's Ladders of Opportunity agenda. Promise Zones are intended to revitalize high poverty communities, with the overall goal of significantly reducing poverty through job creation, increased economic activity, improved educational opportunities, improved public safety, leveraged private capital, and other local strategies that may cover areas such as transportation, housing, health, or smart growth. Promise Zones unite multiple federal departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Education, Justice, Labor, Health & Human Services, the Small Business Administration, and others.

The City of Los Angeles (lead applicant) and Youth Policy Institute along with cross sector collaboration from public and private partners will target the communities of East Hollywood, Pico-Union/Westlake, Koreatown, Thai Town, and Little Armenia. The City of Los Angeles has been selected as one of five Promise Zones, along with Philadelphia, San Antonio,

southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Promise Zone designations will have a term of 10 years, and will be extended as necessary to capture the full term of availability of the Promise Zone tax incentives, if enacted.

Los Angeles has the potential to draw up to \$500 million dollars over the next ten years.

Arroyo Seco Regional Branch to Open on Sundays



(Photo Credit: LAPL)

Measure L is a ballot measure passed by voters in 2011 to restore services at the Los Angeles Public Library that were cut in the recent recession.

During 2010 and 2011, staff was reduced by nearly 30% and hours at the 73 libraries were cut to the lowest level in the library's history—at a time when demand for service was at a record level. In response, Measure L was placed on the March 2011 ballot and drew support from a broad coalition of elected officials, community members, businesses, educators and others. The measure was overwhelming passed by Los Angeles voters.

Measure L gradually restores library funding over four years, without raising taxes. It has already restored service on Mondays and two evenings a week at all 73 libraries. Beginning January 12, 2014, Measure L will re-open the Central Library and eight regional branch libraries on Sundays, one year ahead of schedule. Measure L also provides funds to purchase additional books and materials.

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate the new hours at the Arroyo Seco Regional Branch (6145 N. Figueroa St., 90042) from 1:00-5:00pm.

Reusable Bags Now Available



(Photo Credit: Bureau of Sanitation)

The Bureau of Sanitation has been gracious enough to donate reusable bags for CD1 residents in order to comply with the new plastic bag ban. Stop by our district office M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm for your free reusable bag.

Highland Park District Office
5577 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(323)550-1538

Getting to Know Team Cedillo: Sergio Infanzon



Name: Sergio Infanzon

What do you do for CD1?

Planning Deputy: I am a member of the team responsible for planning, land use and development issues in the district. I also staff the councilmember on the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Mexico and moved to Los Angeles when I was almost 19 years of age. Since that time, I have lived in different communities: Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, Temple-Beaudry, South Central and Southeast Los Angeles. The result behind this nomadic pattern has offered me knowledge and understanding of the needs and challenges the people living in the City of Los Angeles face every day.

How'd you get your start in Public Service?

I started working for the public as a volunteer with a youth group from the church I attend. At that time, every year, we organized numerous activities to help in the community: tutoring programs, community clean ups, food bank, health fairs and many more programs to directly help the communities surrounding the church. At the same time, I got involved in student government at the community college I was attending and organized activities for the public and students promoting higher education in the areas of science and engineering. As a result of this involvement, I was appointed by former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to the advisory committee of the California Student Aid Commission representing every student in the state. This opportunity offered me a better understanding about how critical is to serve the public with efficiency and integrity.

Best kept secret in CD1?

District 1 has a rich variety of traditional restaurants from many parts of the world and is home to many historically important sites in the city. You need to visit it to believe, enjoy and discover those secrets by yourself. Any questions about those places, feel free to ask me or anyone else from our office.

What is your favorite P.E.A.C.E. issue and why?

I believe that one of the greatest challenges you have when working in public service is to be able to improve the quality of life of the people you represent and that is the challenge I have in mind every day when I come to work. As an idealist, I want to address every single aspect of the P.E.A.C.E agenda and accomplish all the goals attached to it. I know that if we truly want to make a difference in our communities, we need to have a multifaceted approach, work with the community and listen to their concerns.

If you could solve one major issue in CD1 what would it be?

Increase the number of students graduating from college from the 10% currently taking place in our district to 100%. I strongly believe that if we could break the cycle of not graduating our young people from college, it would eradicate many of the social problems our district is facing, including poverty. It would strengthen the local economy and the work force and it would definitively power economic development for future generations.

What do people not know about you?

I go to church every Saturday most of the day. I try to disconnect from anything that has nothing to do with bringing a spiritual balance to my life. No TV, to radio, no politics (community work is perfectly acceptable). It sounds radical, but it has worked for me.

IN MEMORIAM

Alicia Brown

It is with deep sadness that I must inform you that our beloved Alicia Brown passed away peacefully January 5, 2014. Born in San Antonio Texas, she came to Solano Canyon when she was a young teenager.

Alicia Brown fought for her community for many years. She was a founding member and president of the Solano Avenue Association, active member of the CCSEP, founding member of the Solano community garden, neighborhood council representative and many more titles to list. She was known in City Hall for her tireless efforts on behalf of her community. Mrs. Brown was a lover of the arts. A dancer in her younger years, she was also a patron of the Los Angeles Theater Academy in Elysian Park and remained supportive of the academy throughout the years.

Alicia is survived by her Husband Dean Brown, Son Anthony Brown, Daughters Yolanda Olan and Rita Garcia, 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Her passion and extensive knowledge of the community will be missed in Solano Canyon.

May she rest in peace.

Carmen Zapata

Carmen Zapata, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts (BFA) founder and president emeritus has passed away on Sunday, January 5th, 2014 following complications resulting from heart problems.

In a career spanning more than six decades, the ever-vital and ever-versatile Carmen Zapata stood as one of the most respected and diversified Hispanic-American figures in the performing arts. The much-admired veteran actress wore many hats over the years: actor, comedian, benefactor, producer, translator, teacher, lecturer and narrator.

She co-founded the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts 40 years ago, which is situated in CD1, and thanks to her work more than 2 million people have enjoyed BFA productions over the last 40 years; thousands of young people have been exposed to the theater arts, helping them to develop their minds, character and keeping them in touch with their Hispanic roots and culture.

At the age of 86 Carmen Zapata's unwavering dedication to preserving the Hispanic-American culture continues to be a source of pride to the Los Angeles community and her profound influence has extended itself nationwide.

Eddie White

Eddie White was a long time resident of Westlake and lived on Union Street in Council District 1 for the past 18 years. A graduate of San Fernando High School who had spent his youth as a football player and a youth minister, Eddie went on to serve in the military and eventually managed two properties in the Westlake Neighborhood. As Westlake North Neighborhood Council President, Eddie made it a priority to serve the majority low-income community through Turkey-giveaways, Christmas Toy Drives and other community events that directly gave back to the neighbors whose lives he wanted to enrich.

It was just a couple of months ago that Eddie was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Eddie passed away surrounded by his family, his children Latina, Jackie, Junior and his life partner Jennifer on Wednesday January 7th, 2014 just 6 days short of his 58th birthday. He was a dear friend of our council office and will be remembered for his incredible energy, passion and enthusiasm for changing the lives of youth in Council District 1. Eddie is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, and his partner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cedillo Honored by LA Voice
Sunday, January 12th, 2014
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

6657 West Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Library Sunday Celebration
Sunday, January 12th, 2014
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Arroyo Seco Regional Branch
6145 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042

This message was sent to mistyli@aol.com by:

Los Angeles Councilmember Gil Cedillo, District 1
200 N. Spring St., Room 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7001



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